



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 21, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains a pursuit of County position on legislation to freeze reimbursement rates for Institutes for Mental Diseases which provide intensive services for severely mentally ill persons; a status report on County-sponsored legislation to require State reimbursement for special elections; and an update on seven County-advocacy bills related to: 1) investment activities in the energy sector in Iran; 2) State reimbursement for property tax revenue losses resulting from wildfires; 3) receipt of ballot measures by email or websites; 4) increased penalties for sexual assaults on minors; 5) Senate Local Government omnibus bill; 6) cancelation of taxes, penalties, and interest for the Long Beach Affordable Housing Coalition; and 7) redevelopment project extensions.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 2645 (Chesbro), which as introduced on February 19, 2010, would freeze reimbursement rates for Institutes for Mental Diseases (IMDs) to the levels in effect on July 1, 2009. IMDs are locked, skilled nursing facilities that provide diagnosis, treatment and care for persons with mental diseases including medical attention, nursing care, and related services. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) indicates that IMD facilities provide critical services for persons with mental illnesses so acute that they require hospitalization in a locked facility for stabilization. DMH has 800 individuals placed in IMD facilities and 77 individuals on a waiting list for IMD placement.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Counties are required to pay 100 percent of the costs for IMD placements including an annual 4.7 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The California Mental Health Directors Association indicates that this rate increase is unsustainable for counties given that increased costs for IMD care is one less dollar available for community mental health services. DMH estimates that the July 1, 2009 COLA resulted in \$2.2 million in increased costs to the County in FY 2009-10. The elimination of the July 1, 2010 COLA for IMDs would allow the County to maintain IMD services at the current level.

The Department of Mental Health and this office support AB 2645. Therefore, consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals that assist and protect the mentally ill and to eliminate administrative mandates to focus limited resources on services; **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 2645.**

AB 2645 is sponsored by the California Mental Health Directors Association and supported by the California State Association of Counties, Disability Rights California, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Regional Council of Rural Counties, and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. This measure is opposed, unless amended, by the California Association of Health Facilities. AB 2645 passed the Assembly Health Committee on April 20, 2010 by a vote of 18 to 0. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored SB 994 (Price), which as introduced on February 9, 2010, would require the State to reimburse local governments for the authorized and necessary expenses incurred in special elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the State Senate or Assembly, United States Senate, or House of Representatives, passed the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee on April 20, 2010 by a 5 to 0 vote. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported AB 1650 (Feuer), which as amended on April, 13, 2010, would prohibit a person or institution that engages in investment activities in the energy sector in Iran, from bidding or entering into a contract for goods or services with a public entity, passed the Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee on April 20, 2010 by a vote of 11 to 0. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported AB 1662 (Portantino), which as amended on April 7, 2010, would provide State reimbursement for property tax revenue losses resulting from the wildfires that started in August 2009 in Los Angeles County, passed the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation on April 20, 2010 by a vote of 9 to 0. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported AB 1717 (De Leon), which as amended on March 16, 2010, would: 1) authorize county and city election officials to offer registered voters the choice to opt out of receiving ballot materials by mail and choose to receive the materials via electronic mail or by accessing a website; 2) specify that voter's electronic mail addresses or any other information provided by the voter shall remain confidential; and 3) establish a procedure to allow voters to opt back into receiving materials by mail, passed the Assembly Floor on April 12, 2010 by a vote of 71 to 0. This measure now proceeds to the Senate.

County-supported AB 1844 (Fletcher), which as amended on April 13, 2010, would enact Chelsea's Law to increase penalties for sexual offenses committed against minor children, passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2010 by a vote of 4 to 0. The Governor applauded the Committee for their action and announced his support for the bill. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 894 (Senate Local Government), which is the Senate Local Government omnibus bill that contains four County-sponsored provisions, passed the Senate Local Government Committee on April 19, 2010 on consent and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The County-sponsored provisions in SB 894 would: 1) raise the limit on change orders for public works contracts that county supervisors delegate to county officials from \$150,000 to \$210,000; 2) authorize a county board of supervisors to delegate authority to approve change orders on county bridge and subway construction contracts to county officers; 3) authorize a county board of supervisors, acting as a county waterworks district's governing board, to delegate to the district manager or other district official the authority to approve change orders on construction contracts; and 4) allow the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to delegate to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's chief engineer or other District officer the authority to approve change orders on construction contracts.

County-opposed SB 996 (Lowenthal), which as amended on March 25, 2010, would cancel approximately \$637,000 in existing outstanding taxes, penalties, and interest, for the Long Beach Affordable Housing Coalition passed the Senate

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Revenue and Taxation Committee on April 14, 2010 by a vote of 5 to 0. This measure now proceeds to Senate Appropriations Committee.

County-opposed SB 1112 (Oropeza), which would allow a 10-year extension of a redevelopment project area that is at least 25 percent a brownfield site, passed the Senate Local Government Committee, as amended, on April 19, 2010 by a vote of 3 to 2. The recent amendments taken in committee are not available at this time; however, the Sacramento advocates indicate that the amended bill would no longer apply to brownfield redevelopment projects statewide and, instead, would pertain only to the oldest portion of one redevelopment project in the City of Carson. The bill amendments are expected to be in print on April 22, 2010. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:IGEA:sb

c: All Department Heads
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